

Mahoney Announces Sebring Grants to Fund Airport, Alcohol Awareness

(Sebring, FL) - Congressman Tim Mahoney (FL-16) announced today that the Sebring Airport Authority has been awarded a grant in the amount of \$243,357.00 from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and the Heartland Education Consortium/Highlands County School Board will be awarded a grant in the amount of \$432,364 from the U.S. Department of Education (DOE). The FAA grant will be applied toward rehabilitating the runway and taxiway at Sebring Regional Airport. The DOE grant will provide funding to implement innovative and effective alcohol abuse prevention programs in Highlands County schools.

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"This funding will help Sebring Airport make critical repairs so that it can continue to serve our local businesses and help our economy to grow," said Congressman Mahoney. "As I continue to work to bring the biofuels industry and jobs to Highlands County, it is essential that we have the necessary infrastructure in place to support these new businesses. My district is finally beginning to get its fair share."

"Design and engineering funding for the reconstruction of runway 14-32 and taxiway A-4 will allow The Sebring Airport Authority to apply for a construction grant through the FAA and Florida DOT. The runway was originally constructed in 1942 and is an important component of the Airport's infrastructure. Congressman Mahoney is to be commended for his leadership role in securing this important funding for the Sebring Airport Authority," said Mike Willingham, Sebring Regional Airport Executive Director.

For more information on the Sebring Regional Airport, please visit: <http://www.sebring-airport.com/>

The purpose of the Grants to Reduce Alcohol Abuse program is to provide resources to develop and implement innovative and effective alcohol abuse prevention programs for secondary school students. Under this program, local educational agencies are the only eligible applicants. They may compete for funds to implement activities that include one or more proven strategies for reducing underage alcohol abuse as determined by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).

"With the sharp spike in alcohol-related deaths in Highlands County over the past five years, the Department of Education grant couldn't come at a better time," said Congressman Mahoney. "We must do everything we can to stop underage, illegal drinking. I am pleased that Highlands County schools will finally have the resources they need so that they can educate our kids about the dangers of alcohol abuse."

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